ARTICLES
OF
Visitation and Enquiry,
Concerning
Matters Ecclesiastical, exhibited to the Ministers, Church-Wardens, and Sidemen of every Parish, and Chappelry within the *Arch-Deaconry* of
RICHMOND,
Of the Dioceſs of
CHESTER:
In the Ordinary Visitation of the said Arch-Deaconry.
Begun in the Year of our Lord God, 1684.

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RICHMOND
Yorks
ARCHDEACONRY

An Advertiſement.

THe Parſon, Vicar, or Curate of every Pariſh, and the Church-Wardens, and Side-men, are to meet together, and to Reade over theſe Articles divers times; to deliberate, and conferr about them, and the Anſwering of them. Then, after they have duely conſidered them, they are to Write their Anſwer, or Preſentment (with the Names of all Offenders) unto every Article particularly, adviſedly, and truely, according to their Conſciences: And the ſame ſo Written, they are all of them to bring to the Viſitation, and to deliver up under their Hands; and the Church-wardens, and Side-men alſo upon their Oaths: And they are to conſider, That as the true diſcharging of their Office, is the chief means whereby Publique diſorders, ſins, and offences in their Pariſhes, may be Reformed: So if they wilfully refuſe or neglect to Preſent ſuch as any of them know, or have heard, by publique Fame to be guilty, of any Crime mentioned in theſe Articles, then they muſt expect both to give account thereof to God, and to be proceeded againſt by their Eccleſiaſtical Superiors, as in caſes of Omiſſion of their duty, if not as violators of their Oaths.

Articles

The tenor of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-wardens and Sidemen of every Parish.

YOu shall Swear diligently to consider upon, and a true and full Answer make to every Article in this Book now given you in Charge, and to present every Person now or lately Inhabiting within your Parish or Chappely, that hath done any Offence or omitted any duty therein mentioned, or is suspected or defamed of any such offence, or default. And this you shall do, without favour or malice hope of reward or fear of displeasure. So help you God.

Articles of Visitation and Enquiry within the Archdeaconry of Richmond *of the Diocess of* Chester.

Titul. 1.

Concerning Churches, Chappels, and their Yards.

1. ARe your Parish-Church, Chancel, and Chappel decently kept for Gods honour? Are the Roof, Wills, Pavements, Windows, well repaired? are your Bells in Tune, and in good Order, with the Bell-frames, and bell strings thereof? are the ten Commandements, Lords Prayer, and Creed drawn out in fair Letters, and the Kings arms decently set up in convenient places?

II. Have you a Font of Stone decently covered standing towards the lower end of the Church, for the Administration of Baptisme, a comely Table placed conveniently in the Church or Chancel for the use of the Lords Supper? Have you a comely Carpet of Silk, or good Stuff for that holy Table, with a fair Linnen Cloth to spread upon it in the time of Administration of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper? And have a you handsome Cup of Silver for the Wine, and a Cover of the same to put the Bread on? Have you one or more Flagons of Pewter, or better Mettal, for that use? And a decent Basin wherein to receive the Alms for the poor and other devotions of the people?

III. Are

III Are your reading desk and Pulpit conveniently set up, and placed for the use of publique Prayer and Preaching, and hath your Pulpit a Cushion, and Covering before it?

IV. Have you in your Church or Chappel the Common-Prayer-book of the largest volume lately set forth by publick Authority; and have you the Bible in *Folio* fairly bound, of Kings *James's* Translation, a *Book of Homilies*, a *Book containing the 39. Articles*, and a *Book of Canons*; Have you also a decent Surplice one or more, as there is need, for your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, to wear in the time of publique Ministration.

V. Have you a Book of Parchment, wherein be Registred all the Christnings, Marriages, and Burials in your Parish. Have you a strong Chest with three Locks, wherein to preserve the said Book, and your Church Furniture, in the said Register kept in the said Chest? And have you a box for almes conveniently placed for the relief of the Poor? Have you the table of Degrees prohibited in Marriage, set forth 1563, and so placed in your Church, that any one may come to reade it.

VI. Are the Tombs, Monuments, Garvestones of the dead in your Church or Church-yard preserved, and not suffered to be broken, taken down, or removed?

VII. Are the Houses and out-houses of your Minister in good and sufficient Repair: Doth he preserve the Gardens, Orchards, and Gleabe thereto belonging, without wasting, selling, changing, or any way damnifying them?

VIII. Is

VIII. Is the Church-yard decently kept, and well fenced to keep out Swine, and other noysom cattle, and no encroachment made thereupon by Building or otherwise? Are the Trees therein preserved, by whome cut down? You must present all such defects as are here enquired of; And if you be Chappel-wardens, you must present all such defects respectively, as are in your Chapple or Chappel-yard?

IX. Have any new Seats been erected in your Chancel, Church, or Chappel, without leave of the Ordinary?

Titul. 2.

Inquires about the Parson, Vicar, Curate, and Lecturer.

I. DOe you believe, or have you cause to suspect, any of those above-named, not to have received Episcopal Ordination, according to the Laws of this Church and Kingdom? If you do you must present them?

II. Doth your Person, Vicar, or Curate, reade the Book of Common-Prayer (if he be Residene, and in sound health) at Morning and Evening Service, on Sundays, and Holy-days? And doth he weare the Surplice whilst he performes that Office, and other Offices mentioned in the Common-Prayer Book (and doth he bid in time of Divine Service on Sundays) such Holy-dyas, and fasting dayes appointed by the Church, as shall happen the week following?

III. Doth

III. Doth he Preach a Sermon every Sunday, or procure a Sermon then to be Preached, or els sometimes Read one of the Homilies which the Church hath appointed? And doth he often on Sundays or Holy days in time of Divine Service, after the Second Lesson at Evening Prayer, instruct his Parishioners in the Catechisme of the Church?

IV Doth he reade the Service appointed for the (30th) of *January*, (29th.) of *May*, and (5th) of *November*? and doth he keep yearly Parambulation, and Rogation dayes in the beginning of the week before the Feast of the Lords Ascention.

V. If your Parson, or Vicar, keep a Curate, what is his Name, is he of a godly life, and sufficient Learning? Is he allowed by the Bishop, or his Commissary? And can you tell whether the said Curate have a competent allowance according to the value of the Living? And what allowance hath he?

VI. Do you observe to the best of your understanding, That your Person, Vicar, and Curate, do Preach the true Word of God? Or, doe they to your judgement, having consulted with other grave Parishioners, vent dangerous Opinions derogating from the glory of God, and a pious life? Doe they teach sedition directly against His Majesty, His Laws, and Government? Or doe you note that indirectly they cast out scandalous glances against the civil State or Government Ecclesiastical?

VII. Doth your Minister celebrate the Lords Supper in

in the Church, according to the Service of the Common-Prayer Book, often every year? Doth he repel them from it that are ſcandalous by the ſentence of the Laws? Doth he Baptize ſuch Infants of his Pariſh according to the Common-Prayer Book, upon warning given before, as are brought on Sundayes, or Holy dayes to the Church, with Godfathers and Godmothers? And upon lawful Summons, doth he Baptize Infants at home, in caſe of danger and neceſſity, and not otherwiſe? Have all ſuch children been after brought to the Church, that the Miniſter might certifie the Congregation, that the Child was rightly Baptized? and who were not ſo brought?

VIII. Doth he viſit the ſick of his Pariſh upon lawful notice given him thereof, as is appointed in the Common-Prayer Book?

IX. Doth he prepare the young Men and Maidens of the Pariſh to be Confirmed by the Biſhop? Doth he Marry none Clandeſtinely, but at due hours, between eight of the Clock in the Morning and twelve, openly in the Church, and that upon Banes thrice Publiſhed upon Sundayes or Holy-dayes, or Licenſe obtained from the Commiſſary, or from whom? And doth he bury the dead according to the Book of Common Prayer?

X. Is your Miniſter or Curate a man of ſober, chaſt, juſt and unblamabel life? Doth he uſe Canonical moueſt, and decent Apparel, according to his ability? And doth he Preach in his Grown? Spare not to Preſent him, or them, that are not every way examples of godlineſs.

XI. Doth your Minister, with the Church-wardens, take care duly every year to send in under their hands the Names of all such in your Parish that have been baptized, Married, and buried, duly distinguished, that they may be Inrolled in the Bishops Registry kept at *Richmond*? And have you a Terrier of all the Gleab-lands and other Rights and possessions belonging to your Church, to be preserved in the said Registery?

XII. Doth your Minister maintain peace with his Neighbours, and study to keep them in peace, as much as in him lyes? Doth he take diligent care to reduce all Sectaries, Separatists, and Refractory persons to the obedience of the Doctrine and Government of this Church? And doth he offer himself (being an able learned man) to conferr with Popish Recusants and Sectaries, to convert them, and bring them into the Bosom of the Church, or otherwise desire the assistance of his Ecclesiastical Superiors?

Titul. 3.

Enquiries about the Parishioners.

I. DO all your Parishioners of due Age resort to the Divine Service and Sermons in your Church, or Chappel, on all Sundays and Holydays, and who doth not?

II. Do they, or any of their Servants, occupy themselves in servile works on Sundays or Holy dayes? Do they open their Shops, or sell any Wares on those dayes? Do Vintners, Victuallers, Inn-keepers, or others, receive any into their

their houſes to tipple, and waſt time idely on thoſe dayes, except they be Travellers that are upon a journey, or in neceſſary occaſions? Declare the Names of all that offend againſt any pary of this Article.

III. Do your Pariſhioners in time of Divine Service, Sermon, and Homily, behave themſeves reverently, Men and Youths with their Hats off, both ſexes giving due attention, none diſturbing Holy Duties, by talking, walking, removing, going out, or giving any other offence? And do they all both Men and women when *gloria Patri*, the Creed, and Goſpel is read, ſtand up, and when Prayers, and Litany are ſaid, kneel, make anſwer in time of Divine Service, as is appointed in the Rubrick of the Common-Prayer-Book, and who doth not ſo?

IV. Have you in your Pariſh any Papiſts, Hereticks, Schiſmaticks, Anabaptiſts, Separatiſts, Quakers, or other Sectaries that refuſe to come to the Publique Aſſemblies, Prayer, or Service of the Church, what are their Names?

V. Are any now, or lately inhabiting, within your Pariſh or Chappelry, known or much ſuſpected to have commited Inceſt, or married within Inceſtuous or prohibited degrees of Blood? Are there any Adulterers, Fornicators, Blaſphemers, Common Swearers, Drunkards, Sorcerers, or Reſorters to Sorcerers, within your Pariſh or Chappelry? Declare their Names.

VI. Are there any above the age of ſixteen years in your Pariſh, that do not come to the Lords Supper to partake of it reverently on their Knees, three times every

ry

ry year at the leaſt, the Feaſt of *Eaſter*, or thereabouts, being one? And do not every one that intend to receive the holy Communion, ſignifie their Names to the Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, at leaſt ſome time the day before, for the Reaſons in the Rubrick of the Common Prayer Book declared? And who have not ſo done?

VII. Are there any in your Pariſh that keep their Children unbaptized? Enquire diligently, and return their Parents and Governours Names, and the Liſts of thoſe Children by ſuch Names as you can learn?

VIII. Doe all Women that have been ſafely delivered, come to the Church in due time, to partake of the Office of Thankſgiving, after the Order of Common Prayer?

IX Doe your Pariſhioners bring their Dead to be decently buried, after the Order of the Church, in their own Church, or Church-yard? Or if they carry their Dead away to be interred in ſome other place, whether they be Lodgers, or other Strangers, do they firſt obtain leave of the Miniſter of the Pariſh, and have they his Certificate?

X. Do any of your Pariſh uſually frequent other Pariſh Churches, and abſent themſelves from their own? Preſent their Names.

XI. Are there any that keep private Conventicles in their own Houſes at home, or abroad in the Houſes of others, which are reſorted unto by thoſe who are known

known, or ſuſpected for Sectaries, or any other way diſaffected to the preſent Government of the Chruch of *England*?

XII. Have any within your Pariſh been married without Banes thrice asked, or lawful Licenſe obtained? What Marriages, have been ſolemnized out of your Pariſh or Chappel? or at unlawful hours, declare what you know herein.

XIII. Are there any Wills or Teſtaments of perſons dead within your Pariſh or Chappelry, that are not proved, or do you know, or have heard of any goods adminiſtred without Adminiſtration thereof firſt duly obtained under Seal?

XIV. Is the Alms-houſe, Hoſpital, School, or Spittle, within your Pariſh well and godly uſed, according to the foundation and true intent of the Founders thereof? And is any Penſion or Stipend due to and of them detained, and by whom?

XV. What Legacies, or penſions, have been given to your Miniſter, Church, or other pious uſes in your Pariſh or Chappel, which are with-held, or not imployed to the right uſe according to the Will of the Doner, and by whom was the ſame given, and with-held?

XVI. Are your Seats and Pews in the Church decently kept? Are the Pariſhioners placed in them without offence or contention, if not, name the particulars? Have any neglected to pay their offering due at *Eaſter*

to your Minister, or acustomed wages due to your Clerk? What are their Names, and the summes they have not paid?

Titul. 4.

Inquires about Church Officers, and other persons.

I. DOe your Parish-Clerk and Sexton if you have such an one) do their duties obediently and diligently? Are they of honest life and conversation? Is your Parish Clerk duely chosen by the Minister? And is he allowed by the Bishop, or his Commissary; Can he Write and Reade? And doth he make Responses to the Hymns, and other parts of the Liturgy?

II. Is there a School, publique or Private, in the Parish? Is the School-master and Usher if he have any) allowed by the Bishop, or his Commissary? Doth he breed his Schollars religiously, And doth he teach them the Church Catechisme?

III. Have you any Physitian, Chyrurgion, or Midwife in your Parish, that Practice without Licence? Declare their Names.

IV. Are your Church-Wardens duely chosen in the week after Easter-day, by the Minister and the Parishioners

ners, according to the Canon, or Law in that behalf?

V. Have the Church-Wardens who are to surrender their Places, upon the swearing of new ones, given up their Accompts to the Parishioners? And are their Accompts allowed? And are they kept in the Chest with three Locks, that such Parishioners as desire to see them, may be satisfied how the Monyes collected are disbursed, or in whom, and wherein is fault or default?

VI. Also, have your Church-Wardens been diligent to repair the Church, to keep it decent and comely; Have they preserved the Funt for Baptisme fit and handsome for that Use? Likewise have they looked carefully to the Communion Table, to the Plate and Utensils pertaining to it? And have you provided such fine white Bread, and good Wine, as was fit for that holy Sacrament, according to advice taken with the Minister?

VII. Have you made Assessments for the Reparation of the Church, and other holy uses? And are there any that have not paid the proportion assessed on them, what are their Names, and the summes they have not paid?

VIII. Do the Church-wardens and Side-men, about the midst of Divine Service, usually walk out of the Church to see who are abroad in any Alehouse or elsewhere absent, or evilly imployed? And who have you found or heard to have been offending therein?

IX Do the Church-wardens and Sworn-men before every

every Viſitation, and at other time, when there is juſt occaſion meet, and confer about their preſentments, and the anſwering of their Articles, and who hath after notice given him of the time and place, careleſly abſented himſelfe?

X. Doe you know, or have heard a fame of any offence committed, or duty omitted, by any of your pariſh before your time, and not perſented by the former Church-Wardens, or as yet not reformed? Preſent the ſame.

XI. Finally, do you know of any matter, or cauſe, which is a breach of the Laws Eccleſiaſtical, here not expreſſed? And have you preſented them?

FINIS.